

Two Novel *Stevias* (Asteraceae: Eupatorieae) from North-Western Mexico

Billie L. Turner

Plant Resources Center, The University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712, billie@uts.cc.utexas.edu

ABSTRACT

Two novelties of *Stevia* are described from Mexico: *Stevia concordiana* B.L. Turner, **sp. nov.**, from Sinaloa, Mpio. Concordia, and *Stevia sahuaribana* B.L. Turner, **sp. nov.**, from the vicinity of Sahuariba, Sonora, reportedly near the waterfall Sahuariba. The latter is presumably related to the more widespread, more southern species, *S. rosei*, the former to *S. hypomalaca*, a species of central Mexico. www.phytologia.org *Phytologia* 95(4): 250-254 (Nov. 1, 2013). ISSN 030319430

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STEVIA CONCORDIANA B.L. Turner, **sp. nov.** Fig. 1

Resembling *S. hypomalaca* B.L. Rob., but having somewhat less pubescent stems and foliage, the leaves ovate-lanceolate, 10-15 mm wide (vs oblanceolate, 4-10 mm wide).

Stiffly erect perennial herbs 40-60 cm tall. **Stems** densely pubescent with crinkly hairs, the vestiture 0.5-1.0 mm high. **Leaves** alternate, ovate-lanceolate, 3-5 cm long, 1.0-1.5 cm wide, lower surfaces densely pubescent and markedly venose; petioles 1-3 mm long, the blades weakly crenulate. **Capitulescences** cymose-paniculate, arranged both terminal and lateral, each arrangement ca 3 cm high, 2 cm wide, the ultimate peduncles 1-10 mm long. **Involucral bracts** 4-5 mm long, their apices mostly acute, pubescent like the stems. **Florets** 4 / head, 3 bearing awns, the other a crown of short scales 0.1-0.3 mm high. **Corollas** white, 4-5 mm long, sparsely pubescent; tube ca 1 mm long, grading into the throat; lobes ca 1.5 mm long. **Achenes** linear, black, glabrous, ca 3 mm long; pappus a crown of short scales ca 0.2 mm high, or topped by 3-4 bristles ca 4 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. SINALOA: Mpio. Concordia, "El Palmito a 8 km al oeste, bosque de *Pinus* con las especies *Engelmanii*, *Herrera* y *Quercus*," ca 2350 m, 17 Nov 1984, *J. A. Beltran Magallanes 160* (Holotype TEX).

In my treatment of *Stevia* for Mexico (Turner 1997), largely because of its alternate, densely pubescent, markedly venose leaves, this novelty will key to or near *S. hypomalaca* B.L. Rob., a more southern taxon (Fig. 3).

STEVIA SAHUARIBANA B.L. Turner, **sp. nov.** Fig. 2

Superficially resembling *Stevia rosei* B.L. Rob., but having densely pubescent stems and leaves (vs glabrous) and much smaller involucral bracts (ca 4 mm long, vs 7-8 mm).

Perennial herbs to 50 cm high. **Stems** densely pubescent with crinkly trichomes, the vestiture ca 0.5 mm high. **Leaves** mostly opposite, sessile or nearly so; blades lanceolate, 2.5-3.0 cm long, 0.5-1.0 cm wide, densely pubescent below and above, the lower surfaces more so, markedly venose beneath, the margins nearly entire to weakly dentate. **Capitulescence** a terminal cymose panicle ca 5 cm high, and as wide, the ultimate peduncles 0-2 mm long. **Involucres** pubescent like the stems. **Florets** 4 per head, two having achenes with well-developed bristles; two with a crown of scales ca 0.5 mm high. **Corollas** white,

pubescent, ca 3 mm long, the lobes 2-3 mm long. **Achenes** black, ca 3 mm long, glabrous, the pappus as described above.

TYPE: **MEXICO. SONORA: Mpio. Sahuariba**, vicinity of Sahuariba waterfall, "2 km north of Sahuaribo (sic) on road to Curohui." 27 21.2 N, 108 40 W, 1450 m, "pine-oak woodland." 20 Aug 1992, *P.S. Martin et al. s.n.* (Holotype: ARIZ).

In my treatment of **Stevia** of Mexico (Turner 1997), this novelty will key to or near **S. rosei**, largely because of its small leaves. As noted in the above diagnosis, it is readily distinguished from the latter, more southern, species (Fig. 4), by numerous characters.

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LITERATURE CITED

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Turner, B.L. 1997. *Stevia*, in *Comps of Mexico*, *Phytologia Memoirs* 11:170-197.



Fig. 1. *Stevia concordiana* (Holotype: TEX).



Fig. 2. *Stevia sahuaribana* (Holotype: ARIZ).



Fig. 3. Distribution of *Stevia concordiana* and *S. hypomalacca*.

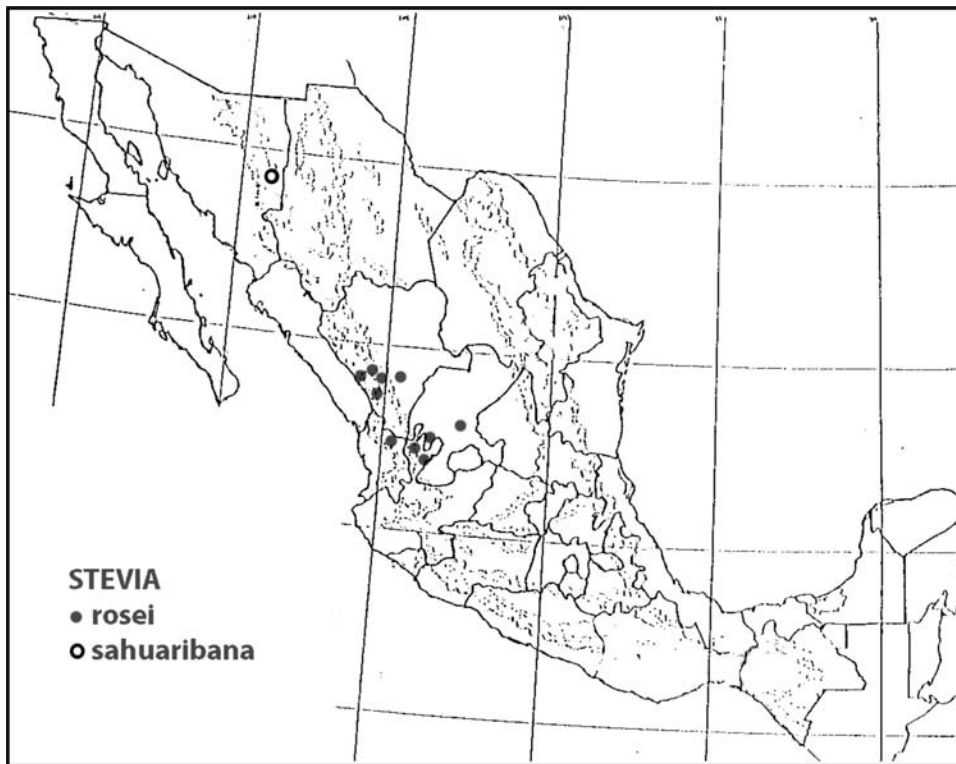


Fig. 4. Distribution of *Stevia rosei* and *S. saharibana*.